

REMARKS

Examiner Nicolas is thanked for the courtesy extended during the Office Interview on January 8, 2007.

The Interview Summary is believed to accurately reflect what was discussed and agreed to during the Interview.

Reconsideration of the objection to Claims 1, 9, 12 and 18 because of informalities is hereby requested. Claims 1, 9, 12 and 18 have been amended to clarify the claims. Therefore, reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Krimmel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,917) is hereby requested. As stated in the Interview Summary "applicants' representative proposed amendments to Claims 1, 12 and 18 appear to define over the prior art of record...". Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been so amended. Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

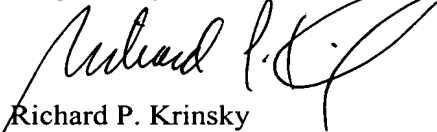
Claims 2-11 and 13-17 depend from Claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are considered to be allowable for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 12 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

Based upon the above, Claims 1-18 are considered to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the Application is now in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (27726/95401).

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Amendment to the Claims